

Bikes for Refugees SA Incorporated

Annual report

1 July 2015-30 Jun 2016

Including financial statement & Auditors Report

Workshop: The Joinery, 111 Franklin Street, Adelaide 5000

ABN 20 663 461 735

Mike Brisco – 12 June 2017

Email mikejbrisco@gmail.com



INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our 2015-16 report.

We concentrate on supplying bicycles to help Adelaide refugees and others in need to meet their transport needs. In 2015-6 about 600 people requested bikes to assist with transport, and we were able to assist all.

The most effective way to meet this level of need, was by recycling. Many of the donated bikes were good quality brands and when repaired, gave a long time of reliable service.

Trying to raise funds to buy new bikes, would have been less effective. It costs less to recycle an old bike, than to buy a new bike, even a basic bike. Our ability to raise funds was limited, so we could not have bought enough new bikes for everyone. Those people who did get a bike, would have got only a basic model. Bikes such as those, even if new, may not provide a reliable long term solution, to people's needs for transport.

This is the 15th year since Bikes for Refugees started, repairing a few bikes a week, in a suburban back yard

... 5th year operating from Adelaide Community Bicycle Workshop – a public workshop run by volunteers, supporting Adelaide cyclists and recycling bikes for people in need

...2nd year as an incorporated body & registered charity

..and 1st full year in Adelaide CBD, as part of the Conservation Council's Joinery precinct.

SITE

Bikes for Refugees operates out of the Conservation Council's Joinery precinct, in Adelaide CBD, close to Adelaide Central Market. We are one of a number of small social enterprises based there. The site is a former bus station with a large canopy sheltering a car park. We operate from two shipping containers in the car park. One container is fitted out as our workshop, the other a store for finished bikes and parts. Most bike repair work is done out-doors, under the canopy. (photo: Sean FanLi)



ADMINISTRATION

We remained registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission, as a charity. We continued to hold some tax concessions from the ATO, and an SA government licence to raise funds for charitable purposes (No CCP2132).

Our trading names are 'Bikes for Refugees', and 'Adelaide Community Bicycle Workshop'.

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

Our main aims are to support people in need, particularly refugees and asylum seekers, by providing free bikes. To do this, we run a community bike workshop where we repair bikes, and which also provides support to Adelaide cyclists. The scheme is largely self-financing and receives no government support. Funds are raised by sale of surplus bikes and parts; and donations from the public who use the workshop.

TRANSPORT NEEDS IN THE REFUGEE COMMUNITY

The needs our bikes address, and the people who apply, are similar to previous years. The 2014-5 annual report gave several detailed examples. The following edited extracts from recent referrals and requests, (names changed) give an impression of who is asking for help, and why.

"To whom it may concern: This letter serves to inform you that Mr MAG arrived in Adelaide from Syria on 26 June 2016, under Humanitarian visa (refugee visa) with his wife and seven kids. I would be really grateful if you could provide him with a free bike. "

"Please help the client with refugee bike. He has arrived to Australia as a refugee with his family under the humanitarian program in May and has limited income. Details – Ahmad – 16 years old. Note – the family does not speak English. Arabic is the preferred language. "

"I am referring this client to you for assistance. She missed out on getting a bike when we referred her daughter to you... she is keen to ride as part of her fitness, and this will help her move around, and not have to rely on the bus."

"Re... he would like to request a bike to get around due to his health. He would like to get another bike for his son if possible to accompany him"

We also received requests from welfare organisations, for bikes to give to their clients, e.g

Request for bikes for 2 teenagers from Sierra Leone.

Request from another charity helping refugees, for 15 adult bikes, to give out to their clients.

Requests for bikes for 2 families. Family 1: Man, tall; woman; girl 13; boy 11; boy 4 (trainer wheels). Family 2 – 1 men's bike, 3 boys bikes (age 6, 12, 13), 1 girl's tricycle, 3 y o).

10 bikes for young Aboriginal people, at Yalata and Oak Valley. Bikes were taken to the communities by Bikes Palya, Bike SA.

WHAT WE DID TO MEET THIS NEED

Help consisting of: a free second-hand bicycle that had been checked and serviced; information on cycling; opportunity to purchase new helmet, lock, and lights at economical prices.

For people with appointments to visit the workshop - we offered a selection of bikes suitable for their age, height etc. Volunteers helped them pick one out, adjust it, and checked they could ride it

For organisations requesting bikes to hand on to their clients – we provided bikes that were suitable for the client's age, height, and gender.

People were responsible for buying their own locks, helmets and lights. (We get very few of these donated). The workshop stocked a range of inexpensive models, and offered those for sale at-cost.

To meet the needs of Afghani and Iranian people – an information sheet on cycling was prepared in Dari.

PEOPLE WHO RECEIVED BIKES

We received requests for assistance from around 600 people and were able to help nearly everyone.

Most were refugee background, living in Adelaide, who had been here less than 5 years. We also helped a few other people in hardship, e.g homeless, illness, low income.

To show eligibility, we required a referral from the person's case worker, a welfare organisation, college, or similar. A few people came direct to the workshop without a referral or were unable to provide one. We usually checked eligibility from their class of visa.

NUMBERS OF BIKES DONATED TO US, AND HOW WE USED THEM

The public donated 896 second-hand bikes, including adult mountain bikes (380), adult road bikes (144), adult hybrids (91), children's bikes (137), and BMX (62). They were typically several years old. All needed checking and servicing, before being handed on.

For each bike, records are kept of its make, model, and how it is used

- 68% were repaired, serviced, then given to people in hardship (610 bikes),
- 19% were surplus to the above need, and were sold to the public (169 bikes),
- 9% were used for parts to repair other bikes and to sell to raise funds (87 bikes),
- 1% remained on hand at the end of the year (10 bikes).

For a few bikes (3% - 20 bikes) fate was not documented

In round figures: of every 10 bikes donated, 9 are put back on the road, and 1 is used for parts. Of those put back on the road, 7 go to people in need; 2 get sold to fund the scheme.

Donations increased about 15% on the previous year,

We also received some donations of bike parts and accessories.

WORKSHOP SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE COMMUNITY – ADVICE, REPAIR, TOOL LOAN, CHEAP S/H PARTS

Adelaide Community Bicycle Workshop is also open to the public, to borrow tools, work on their own bikes, get help or advice, or buy second-hand parts. These activities help raise funds, and by promoting cycling, they advance our charitable aim, to protect and preserve the environment. Some visitors were low income and could not afford to get their bikes repaired at commercial rates.

2321 visits were recorded. We estimate on 50%, people sought assistance with repairs or parts. Thus the workshop provided a service to Adelaide's cycling community, on maybe 1100 occasions.

TOOL KITS FOR SYRIAN FAMILIES RE- SETTLING IN ADELAIDE



Working with Welcome to Australia, we funded 24 tool kits for newly arrived Syrian families, for e.g furniture assembly, household repairs, bike maintenance. Kits contained a wrench, screwdrivers, hex keys, tape measure, hammer.

Tools are essential for living in any house in Australia. However, people encounter obstacles trying to get them - they're not sure which shops stock them, or they don't know the English name of the tool, so can't ask the shop if they stock it.

WTA volunteers Jim and Marie Harvey delivered the kits, often taking bikes at the same time. (Photo: J & M Harvey)

EDUCATION

Another of our charitable purposes, is to advance education and research on bicycles. To do this, we offered information and education to the public, on use of bikes, cycling, and bike mechanics.

Volunteers provided education and advice on bikes, to many of the visitors who sought assistance.

The scheme also hosted a school student, Braden, as part of his community work experience.

VOLUNTEERS

We depend *entirely* on volunteers to operate. During the year around 25 people volunteered, some casually, and some regularly. We would like to put on record our thanks to all of them. Particular thanks go to Dale, Don, Greg and Richard who made a commitment to give regularly of their time, and did so with great generosity. Their willingness to contribute in this way helped us to set up the workshop, and meant the workshop could have regular opening hours, and provide a service routinely.

Volunteers donated 3737 hours of their time - equivalent to 2 full time positions. This enabled the workshop to open to the public several days a week, and also enabled us to recycle enough bikes to cope with demand.

During 2015-6 we became an Approved Provider for "Work for the Dole". Volunteers on income support can count volunteering at the workshop, towards their obligations to Centrelink.

We offer a number of benefits to volunteers, including free tea and coffee; free monthly BBQ; access to tools and facilities to work on their own bikes; parts and accessories at reduced prices.

BI-CULTURAL VOLUNTEERS

Four of our regular volunteers are members of refugee communities. They assisted us greatly to understand and meet people's needs, and also helped members of their community who came to get bikes. In return, we offer bicultural volunteers a small amount of extra support & assistance.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

The scheme helped preserve SA's environment by recycling several hundred unwanted bikes, returning them to use, preventing them going to landfill or scrap metal. The most efficient form of re cycling is to put the item back into use, and for most bikes received this is what we did.

Our activities also perform a service for donors. Most people with bikes to dispose of, are keen to see the bike put back into use, helping someone in need – not ending up as scrap or landfill. But the bike usually needs a service and repairs first. Most owners can't do this servicing themselves. If they get a bike shop to do it, they have to pay, and the cost is significant. By providing a free repair service, we enable donors to dispose of their bikes, in a way they like, and couldn't do otherwise, at no cost to them. Feedback from donors suggests they appreciate this aspect of our work.

We acknowledge the help of Tyrecycle at Lonsdale, who accepted our waste tyres and tubes at no charge.

QUALITY OF BIKES THAT WE GIVE TO PEOPLE OR SELL

The bikes we supply are safe, rideable and clean, and OK for routine riding on the road. Bikes when received are inspected, serviced, repaired where necessary, and get a test ride, before we hand them on. We keep written records for each bike.

During the year, we implemented QC systems to monitor and improve the quality and reliability of bikes we supply. This work involved: research into the faults present in donated bikes; developing a checklist; policy requiring 2 people assess every bike and sign off on it; documentation of work done; and a system to monitor returns. These provided more reliable bikes for clients, and underpin the warranty scheme on sales.

FINANCIAL

A set of audited accounts, is part of this report. As our income was under \$75,000 we remain a 'micro-charity'.

The help we deliver to the community, is in the form of goods and services. These are hard to value in money terms, but a conservative estimate, in round figures, can be made as follows:

Supply 610 second-hand bikes, value at say \$60 each	\$36,600
Direct help to refugees	\$3,300
Surplus funds donated to other organisations that support refugees	\$15,830
Assistance provided to community at the Workshop – tool loan, expertise: 1000 visits valued at say \$15 each	\$15,000
TOTAL	\$70,730

SOME ORGANISATIONS WE WORKED WITH, TO ASSIST THEIR CLIENTS

Adelaide Secondary School of English
Australian Migrant Resource Centre (AMRC)
Australian Refugee Association (ARA)
Baptist Care
BikeSA – Bikes Palya project
Families SA
Hutt Street Centre
Marion Council.
Mental Illness Fellowship of S Australia (MIFSA)
Mercy House, Kilburn (Mercy Works)
Multicultural Youth SA (MYSA)
Red Cross
St Vincent de Paul - Migrant and Refugee Committee
Salvation Army
Survivors of Torture and Trauma, Assistance & Rehabilitation Service (STTARS)
Technical Aid to the Disabled (SA) Inc. (TADSA)
TafeSA Salisbury, Adult Migrant English Program
Thebarton Senior College
Welcome to Australia

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

- all volunteers, principally Dale V, Greg D, Donald H, Bruce P, Callum G, Ian S, Richard M, Adam E, Tim L, Harinder S, Sam K, Steve M, Gordon S, Tim, Peter, Mike, Braden and many others. We particularly thank the volunteers who committed to attend regularly throughout the year, often more than 1 day a week.
- Our bi-cultural volunteers Sule Man, Komail, Kianoosh and Mohammed
- Rustcorp, for donation of \$2,000
- several hundred people who donated bikes, parts and accessories; and also donated their time to bring these to our workshop
- Colin Heinjus, Strathalbyn - donated bikes he repaired in his own time.
- Workskil Lonsdale – donated refurbished bikes from their work for the dole program
- Australia Post - donated 15 postie bikes
- Conservation Council of South Australia - provided site & facilities
- Colin Lord of Sustainable Works, Willunga - donated a solar panel providing off-grid power
- Chesser Chemicals – donated cleaning agents and lubricants.
- Bicycles for Humanity – Adelaide chapter; Bike Kitchen, Bowden; Bike SA; for collaboration and co-operation at various times during the year
- Kevin Clark, Clarks Cycles - long term assistance, support and advice
- Peter Whiting, our Honorary Auditor

Bikes for Refugees SA Incorporated

ABN 20 663 461 735

Registered Charity

Accounts for financial year 2015-6

Trading as Bikes for Refugees & Adelaide Community Bicycle Workshop

Michael J Brisco – co-ordinator

19 November 2016

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Bikes for Refugees SA Inc – ABN 20 663 461 735

Asset statement 30 June 2016

	30/06/2016	30/06/2015	
CASH			
BankSA	25,452.60	23,616.99	(1)
Paypal	10.00	617.85	
Cash box 1	50.00	68.15	
Cash box 2	100.00	100.00	
STOCK - new & unused			
Helmets, lights, locks	1,664.00	1,762.00	
Other bike parts	1,552.50	1,533.00	
PLANT & EQUIPMENT			
shipping container (2)	1,710.00	1,900.00	
fixtures and fittings (3)	536.45	670.56	
Improvements 2015-6	1,556.95	-	
	<u>32,632.49</u>	<u>30,268.55</u>	

(1) on 30/6/15 the account held \$12,000 that was carried forward from pre-2014 income. In Dec 2015 this was donated to the Australian Refugee Association.

(2) depreciation 10% annual flat rate

(3) depreciation 20% annual flat rate

General Notes

Bikes for Refugees is a registered charity. It is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission. It is GST exempt. It holds fundraising licence CCP2132, from SA Government.

Bikes for Refugees SA Inc – ABN 20 663 461 735

Statement of Income and Expenditure – 1 July 2015-30 June 2016

Income

Workshop activities, sale of bikes & parts, donations	29,807.23
Sale of helmets, lights, locks, at-cost to refugees	5,274.05
Cash Donation, from Rustcorp	2,000.00
Bank interest	23.41
TOTAL INCOME	37,104.69

Expenditure

Workshop running expenses	8,197.37
Workshop fittings & fixtures	1,556.95
wages - refugees	1,592.00
direct assistance - refugees	1,790.97
Donations to other organisations which assist refugees	15,830.00
Bank charges	10.15
purchase of helmets, lights, locks , etc	5,439.86
TOTAL EXPENSES	34,417.30

TOTAL INCOME	37,104.69
TOTAL EXPENSES	34,417.30
SURPLUS	2,687.39

AUDIT REPORT

To: The members of Bikes for Refugees SA Incorporated

Scope

I have conducted an independent audit of the Statement of Income and Expenditure, and the Asset Statement, of Bikes for Refugees SA Incorporated for the year ended 30th June, 2016.

My procedures included examination on a test basis of evidence supporting the amounts in the above financial statements. These procedures were undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial statements represent fairly the transactions of the Association.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Qualification

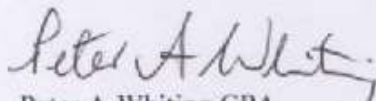
Workshop takings, donations, sales of donated goods:

It is not practical for Bikes for Refugees SA Incorporated to maintain an effective system of internal control over the collection of workshop takings, donations, and sales of donated goods prior to their entry in the accounting records. Accordingly, the audit in relation to collection of workshop takings, donations, and sales of donated goods was limited to the amounts recorded in the accounting records.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion, the above financial statements present fairly the transactions of Bikes for Refugees SA Incorporated for the year ended 30th June, 2016.



Peter A Whiting CPA
Auditor
Phone (08) 8556 5757

12 December 2016